

## REPORT

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1. The history of the CPSU and Stalin's biography were the principal subjects in the recently completed first SED school year. According to the final review of the Schooling and Propaganda Section of the Central Committee, the original training plan, stressing the application of Marxism-Leninism to contemporary problems, was most unsatisfactorily executed.
2. A detailed survey of the results of the first school year has not yet been made. At the present time only figures concerning the number of study circles, their visits, and discussion topics are known. In order to get a sample of the training results, tests were given in groups on the Kreis level in Saxony. These examinations proved that although those tested showed an acquaintance with details concerning Stalin's life, they were seldom able to apply their knowledge about the various stages of the Bolshevik Party to present German and European problems.
3. Before the beginning of the second school year on 1 October 1951, the Central Committee considered whether the study circles should be continued along the same lines. An agreement on the future study plan, in view of the unsatisfactory results, has not been reached. Pending the return to Berlin of Pieck and Ulbricht, no rearrangement of the curriculum will be undertaken. In the meantime, all study groups have been directed to concern themselves exclusively with the subject "Marxism-Leninism and German Unity". A conference of study group leaders, planned to last several days in the last week of September, was called off at the last minute, after a consultation with Pieck and Ulbricht, who were in the Soviet Union.
4. The Schooling and Propaganda Section has prepared a self-critical analysis of the first school year embodying the following points. Those study group leaders have been guilty of "formalism" in assessing their task, and have gauged the instruction to the level of the most elementary classes. Those party functionaries assigned the duty of participating in the study groups have been bored by hearing nothing not already long known to them and have therefore shown very little interest in the proceedings. Especially regrettable has been the lack of active participation on the part of the young functionaries. The young functionaries, moreover, received a completely inadequate answer when they inquired as to the applicability of their study of Stalin's biography and the history of the Bolsheviks. Since the faculty for the study groups was not completed until the last few months, the first three quarters of the school year remained fruitless in many respects.

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